

27 November 1946

Country: Germany/Russian Zone

Subject: SED Training of Youth for the Communist Party

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ONLYSED Students Group, Berlin.

1. The SED Studentengruppe in Berlin has some 300 members. They are drawn from the University, the Technische Hochschule and the Musik-hochschule. The leader of the group is a certain Hauser who is very anxious to climb in the party hierarchy.
2. Each faculty has a group of its own and elects a leader (Gruppen-führer). These groups form study centers (Arbeitsgemeinschaften) and have a weekly evening course. Members are obliged to study certain Marxist text books. Furthermore, they have to acquire a sound knowledge of German "classical-bourgeois-philosophy", in order to be able to refute the arguments of bourgeois students.
3. The study of the opposition press is obligatory (e.g. Der Telegraf). One copy of a paper is shared by a number of comrades, in order not to boost the circulation of the opposition papers.
4. Each SED student is expected to distinguish himself in his own field of studies, as this is considered the best kind of propaganda.

Courses for Students at SED School, Wernsdorf.

5. The aim of the three weeks course for forty-three students held at the SED School at Wernsdorf near Schmalkwitz, in September 1946, was to turn out party functionaries. Each graduate had to accept a position in the party on completion of the course. Students were forbidden to mention the location of the school.
6. The mornings were spent in lectures, the afternoons in discussion groups, while the evenings were given up to discussion of cultural activities, concerts, and community singing of party songs.

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7. A verbal directive was given by the leader of the Berlin Studenten-gruppe. This included the following points: Public criticism of SED comrades is forbidden; the greatest enemy is the Church, and Jesuit methods are to be studied in order to undermine the faith of opponents; each member is to select a bourgeois victim and contaminate him (sic); this activity is to begin with invitations to the movies or walks.
8. All students were made members of election committees and were told to campaign in Altmersdorf and Halleensee.
9. Lectures were given by Moscow-trained Germans and also by two Red Army officers, one of whom gave the final "pop-talk" to the course.

SED Schools and the Training of Instructors.

10. Each Kreis has a Kreisschule for SED functionaries. Graduates go from there to the Landeschule and then to the Reichsschule.
11. There is a shortage of lecturers for these schools, and only the Reichsschule can lay claim to really competent instructors. The party machine requires too many people, and members also have to work in public offices, which leaves them little spare time.
12. Berlin is divided into twenty Kreise, and each Kreis has three party secretaries. Together with the ZS (Central Stelle) and the SL (Bezirksleitung) at least 200 head functionaries are required.
13. The SED schools are a great burden on the party's finances. The graduates of the past year have not come up to expectations and have failed completely in their practical work.
14. The "old comrades" are to be held mainly responsible for this failure because they refuse to make use of modern methods. These "old comrades" still hold with the "prayer of the line" (Gebet von der Linie). Pieck and the others at the top always say "Do not break the line".

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